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## IN THE CLAIMS

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Please reconsider the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for searching a program guide database, comprising:

receiving, from service provider equipment, a search object comprising a video slice encoded by a service provider, said search object being for an interactive program guide (IPG);

receiving one or more user-generated search criteria via user interaction with said search object, the one or more user-generated search criteria comprising one or more keywords composed by a user;

sending a request for a search along with the one or more search criteria to a head end of an information distribution system;

receiving at least one search result from the service provider equipment; and wherein the program guide database is searched at the service provider equipment.

- (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
   displaying an interactive program guide (IPG) page having include therein at least one received search result.
- 3. (original) The method of claim 2, further comprising:
  highlighting a channel object on the displayed IPG page corresponding to one received search result.
- 4. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein the channel object is highlighted by placing a cursor on the channel object.
- 5. (original) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

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receiving an indication that the highlighted channel object has been selected; retrieving one or more streams associated with the selected channel object; and decoding the one or more retrieved streams to recover a selected program.

- 6. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein the highlighted channel object is selected by depressing a particular key on a remote control unit.
- (original) The method of claim 2, further comprising:
   receiving an indication to view a next search result; and
   displaying an IPG page having included therein the next search result.
- 8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more search results are provided within one or more search result IPG pages.
- 9. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the one or more search result IPG pages are received via one or more video streams identified by respective packet identifiers (PIDs).
- 10. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein each search result IPG page includes only search results and no other program guide data.
- 11. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the one or more search results are provided in a particular order of relevance within the one or more search result IPG pages.
- 12. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more search results are received in an order based on scheduled show times.

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- 13. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein the search result having a scheduled show time closest to present time is provided first and the search result having a scheduled show time furthest from the present time is provided last.
- 14. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the IPG does not comprise hypertext markup language (HTML) data;

wherein the IPG comprises a plurality of IPG pages encoded as slice-based video; and

wherein the one or more search results are received as video slices generated via slice-based encoding and sent from the head end.

- 15. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more search results are received as out-of-band data from the head end.
- 16. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the one or more search results are received as compressed data.
- 17. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the program guide database includes a plurality of program entries for a plurality of channels for a particular time period.
- 18. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein program data within the program guide database is indexed for ease of searching.
- 19. (canceled)
- 20. (currently amended) An interactive program guide (IPG) page, comprising: at least one guide region configurable to display a listing of a plurality of channels; and

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a search window object configurable to receive one or more user-generated criteria for the search of the program guide database, the one or more user-generated search criteria comprising one or more keywords composed by a user;

wherein said IPG page is composed and rendered at a head end and operable to support a search of a program guide database; said IPG page is encoded as a video stream adapted for transmission via a video distribution channel, and said search window object comprises a video slice encoded by a service provider.

- 21. (original) The IPG page of claim 20, wherein the search window object is activated by moving a cursor over the object.
- 22. (original) The IPG page of claim 20, wherein the search window object is activated by depressing a particular key on a remote control unit.
- 23. (original) The IPG page of claim 20, wherein the at least one guide region is configurable to display a guide listing that includes a channel object corresponding to a search result from the search.
- 24. (cancelled)
- 25. (original) The IPG page of claim 20, wherein the search window object is composed as a bitmap.

26-27. (cancelled)

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, comprising:
activating the search object by a user, the activating comprising moving a cursor
from an initial position in the IPG to the search object; and

deactivating the search object by the user, the deactivating comprising returning the cursor to the initial position in the IPG from the search object.